

A Review and Proposals for IUFOST Food Insecurity Programs

Food Insecurity is one of the foremost areas that IUFOST focuses on today. All member countries of IUFOST agree on this critical area, enhance the Budapest Declaration and hopefully soon to follow the Cape Town Declaration. This document is an attempt to organize my thoughts and to make proposals on our current and possible future programs in a way that will enable IUFOST to develop targeted working groups on these specific activities and to make clear and concise presentations to philanthropic organizations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

I. Food Insecurity and Education/Training/Experiences

A. Distant Learning.

1. Here I only want to recognize Daryl and his group for their tremendous efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. When he is ready to proceed, Vietnam is interested in discussing opportunities with him.

B. World Food Prize (WFP).

1. Attendance of their Annual Meeting and Annual Meeting for IUFOST Task Force on Food Insecurity.

I discussed this with Dave, Walter and Judith. I assume now that IUFOST has provided a list of Fellows to the World Food Prize Corporation to ensure that the IUFOST Fellows are invited to attend their annual event. Additionally, all IUFOST Fellows, Committee Members, and others interested would annually gather and reinvigorate and discuss progress on Food Insecurity and focus efforts as needed.

2. Joint efforts with WFP/Internship Program.

It is my understanding from Al Clausi that the World Food Prize is looking for “host” countries and locations for their “scholarship receiving students/internship programs”. Is it possible for IUFOST to join forces with them? At least ask our Fellows to host their students? I believe Dave Lineback was going to explore? Not sure on this.

3. IUFOST Internship Program for Food Insecurity.

Can IUFOST develop its own internship program for students from developing countries? Host 1, 2, or 3 weeks or more a student in their home, at their work

location? Focus on learning information which can help them help their countries in the area of food security. Additionally, it would help them develop long term relationships with food scientists around the globe.

C. Education in the classroom, through experiences, and relationships

1. Visiting Professor Program for Developing Countries.

Excerpt form my Vietnam report of 2010:

“Vietnam is looking for Professors who would come and teach on a volunteer basis for 2 weeks or more. No salary but accommodations, meals, local transportation would be provided in Vietnam. Airfare is not provided. Vietnam is hoping that IUFoST or the AB or other organizations might pay the airfare. Desirable to have professors from USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Australia, etc. Best time of year to visit is March/April and September/October/November. I believe this to be a wonderful opportunity and we should discuss more with Governing Council and consider expanding the program to other countries.

I believe IUFoST should consider establish this type of program on a global basis. Perhaps the program can be modeled after the following:

About POF: The Prosthetics Outreach Foundation (POF), based in Seattle, Washington, is a leader in orthopedic rehabilitation in developing countries. POF creates opportunities for children and adults in developing countries who suffer from limb loss and deformities to lead more fulfilling lives. POF emphasizes local capacity building through the training of medical professionals in developing countries and the transfer of technologies that foster the local fabrication of mobility devices and their components. To learn more about POF, please visit <http://www.pofsea.org>.

I especially like their website were you can sign up to volunteer or donate money.

2. International Student Scholarships Programs.

With the establishment of the “IUFoST Developing Trust Fund”. We will now be able to expand for effort to food science students around the world.

(a) Education for undergraduates or graduate students. I believe these are self explanatory. As usual the scholarships will be competitive and a selection committee and criteria need to be established.

(b) Scholarships to attend World Congresses. This we have been doing for years. We should just continue and promote our efforts.

II. Globesity and Food Insecurity

1. Reestablish relationships with IUNS (letter has been written and sent) and other Unions (IUPAC?)

(a) Appoint one or two IUNS officers (and maybe other Unions?) to work on IUFoST's Committee on Food, Health and Wellness

(b) IUNS to participate with IUFoST symposium at World Congress in Cape Town (ICSU/Walter and Globesity/Mary)

2. Ask for Weight Watchers International to support our efforts on Food Insecurity

Weight Watchers International, a well-known international organization related to weight management, has recently opened a store in China. What does that tell you? There are now 1.6 billion people in the world who are overweight or obese. The world is out of balance as far as its caloric consumption. Of course, as I will discuss below, the world is out of balance related to many other items including food waste. In an attempt to balance the world, Weight Watchers International has an annual campaign called "LOSE FOR GOOD". This is a 6-week program where as members lose weight they also bring in food for their local food shelves equal to their weight lost. It is very motivating for some individuals to "help themselves" and "help others" at the same time. Additionally, Weight Watchers International donates \$1 million to two selected charitable partners. "Action Against Hunger" and "Share Our Strength" following the campaign. My proposal is that IUFoST (I volunteer for this), contacts Weight Watchers International and asks them to donate part of the \$1 million to IUFoST's food insecurity programs that focus on EDUCATION. "Teaching a person to fish, just not giving the person a fish". I would hope that this would be a wise decision for them in working with an international organization that is committed to solving the long-term problem of food insecurity and not just short term. Websites below will give you more information.

http://www.weightwatchers.com/templates/marketing/Landing_1col_nonav.aspx?PageId=1039731

http://www.weightwatchers.com/templates/marketing/Landing_1col_nonav.aspx?PageId=103973

3. Food Waste.

By now many of you have read Tristram Stuart's book on Food Waste.

<http://www.tristramstuart.co.uk/>

On this subject, I am hoping for some inspiration from Walter and Dave? What can we as food scientists/IUoST do in this area? Does it not also have a relationship in post harvest storage/lost? Or encouraging food manufacturers, farmers, and agriculturalists to use and find use for all parts of the plant or animal materials they use or produce e.g.

“whey” was transformed into a valuable use instead of being tossed into waste streams. Tristram also believes together we can influence the commodity markets and maybe subsidies. What role can or should the food scientist play here? At the very least we might consider a symposia on this subject and write a Scientific Information Bulletin?

III. Food Safety and Food Insecurity (crossover interactions)

I listed this here, because is not part of food insecurity, food safety? Maybe not directly, yet I believe we must emphasis the efforts we are doing in this area.

1. Food Safety Committee Formation/Initial Programs.

(a) A committee on Food Safety has been establish and an International Expert Food Safety Panel Formed. IUFoST will host its First International Food Safety Forum in Beijing in April with the support of CIFST and the Chinese Ministry of Health. We have the agreed to annually hold this forum for three years.

(b) Initial discussions have been held with Vietnam (VAFoST) related to the Food Safety Committee. We are encouraging their attendance in Beijing to observe and to begin thinking about a similar event in their country. Other countries will also be invited to participate and observe the conference and should consider if they would also like to host such an event in the future.

2. Food Safety Educational Materials

(a) Educational documents are being developed from the Beijing conference. These documents will all be global in nature. Additionally we are requesting countries to submit their Food Safety documents (especially related to how to interact with the consumer) to us (IUFoST is a gathering place). We hope to host their documents or create links to these documents on our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Schmidl
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